

**Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Financial and Reports Management System (FARMS)**

Request to cover Implementation funding shortfall

In July 2006 the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) received Implementation Phase funding in the amount of \$295,000. In order to meet the needs of the customer, the FARMS application had to be put into Production at the start of fiscal year 2008. In doing so, however, we did experience a budget overrun.

The overrun was largely the result of two factors, neither of which was anticipated in the original funding request.

1. Recurring localized performance issues

Slow application response times for the FARMS application were reported by the IDALS team members during training and user testing in some of the field office locations. Extensive communication, in the form of meetings, emails, and phone calls, occurred between the ICN, DAS ITE and IDALS representatives to identify and work through the issues. Diagnostic code was added to the FARMS application to assist in the troubleshooting and several dedicated day-long testing sessions were conducted. Network issues residing with the IDALS network provider were ultimately identified as the source of the problems.

The majority of this effort took place in the February to April time frame. Misdirected charges for this work delayed ITE's assessment of its impact until well after the May Council meeting.

The total impact was \$15,000.

2. Interfacing with the I/3 Financial System

For the FARMS system to provide the biggest benefit to the agency and the grant recipients, it is important for it to interface with the I/3 system. The expectation was that the new development work in I/3 would be completed and ready to interface with the FARMS application by mid to late May. Specific reports, screens and process flows were incorporated into the application to handle the anticipated interactions with I/3. The I/3 updates were not available on schedule and so in late May we made the decision to back out the I/3 interface and create the additional processes, screens and reports that would need to be needed in the FARMS application for IDALS staff to manually handle the I/3 interactions.

The cost to implement the workarounds \$20,000

Cost to reinstate and test the automated I/3 interface \$10,000

Total additional expense for both issues \$45,000 (15% of implementation funding).

3. Hosting fees

There were never hosting fees allotted for this application. The anticipated amount for the first year of hosting is \$5,000.

This results in a total request of \$50,000.